

Amendments to the Claims:

Following is a complete listing of the claims pending in the application, as amended, which replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1-7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently Amended) In a server, a method of operation comprising:

receiving indications of a plurality of users who each login to the server to perform exchanges of digital images with other users;

for each of multiple of the plurality of users, receiving information from the user identifying a subset of the plurality of users whom the user has chosen ~~one or more other users as a resource sharing partners with whom the user has chosen to share digital images, the subset of users identified by each user including one or more other identified users from the plurality of users, the multiple users including a first user who has identified a second user as a resource sharing partner and including the second user who has identified the first user as a resource sharing partner;~~

after the first user has identified the second user as a resource sharing partner of the first user and after the second user has identified the first user as a resource sharing partner of the second user, receiving a first set of one or more digital images uploaded by the first user and receiving a second set of one or more digital images uploaded by the second user;

after receiving the first set of digital images from the first user, providing a copy of the first set of digital images to the users identified as resource sharing partners of the first user by, for each of the identified users, automatically downloading the one or more digital images of the first set in a transparent manner to a computing device associated with the identified user for display in association with at least one of a screen saver and a wallpaper on that associated computing device; and

after receiving the second set of digital images from the second user, providing a copy of the second set of digital images to the users identified as resource sharing partners of the second user by, for each of the identified users, automatically downloading the one or more digital images of the second set in a transparent manner to a computing device associated with the

identified user for display in association with at least one of a screen saver and a wallpaper on that associated computing device.

9. (Canceled.)

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, wherein said one or more digital images are each one or more frames of digital video sequence.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8 wherein the providing of the copy of the first set of digital images to the users identified as resource sharing partners of the first user includes:

- temporarily storing the one or more digital images of the first set;
- receiving a data connection request from a computing device associated with the second user;
- authenticating the identity of the second user; and
- using the requested data connection for the automatic downloading of the one or more digital images of the first set to the computing device associated with the second user.

12. (Currently Amended) In a server, a method of operation comprising:
receiving information from a first user identifying a second user as a resource sharing partner, the first and second users being a subset of a plurality of users who each login to the server to exchange digital media resources;

- receiving information from the second user identifying the first user as a resource sharing partner;

- receiving one or more digital media resources uploaded by at least one of said first and second users;

- generating at least one meta-data file to describe at least a subset of the one or more digital media resources, the generated meta-data files including one or more indications of resource sharing partner users who uploaded the digital media resources;

storing the at least one meta-data file in association with the one or more digital media resources described; and

relaying the one or more digital media resources to the first user if the one or more digital media resources were uploaded by the second user, and relaying the one or more digital media resources to the second user if the one or more digital media resources were uploaded by the first user.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein said one or more digital media resources are stored on said server in a compressed form.

14. (Previously Presented) In a server, a method of operation comprising:
receiving information from a first user identifying a second user as a resource sharing partner;

receiving information from the second user identifying the first user as a resource sharing partner;

receiving one or more digital media resources uploaded by at least one of the first and second users;

sending the one or more digital media resources to the first user if the one or more digital media resources were uploaded by the second user, and sending the one or more digital media resources to the second user if the one or more digital media resources were uploaded by the first user;

for each of the one or more digital media resources, tracking the user who uploaded the digital media resource and tracking the users to whom the digital media resource is sent;

receiving a request from one of said first or second users requesting that a copy of a digital media resource be shared with a third user, said digital media resource having been previously uploaded to said server by said requesting one of said first or second users, shared with the other of said first or second users, and thereafter removed from both said server and a computing device associated with said requesting one of said first or second users;

identifying at least one of each user to have received a previous copy of said digital media resource based at least in part on the tracking; and

requesting said previous copy of said digital media resource from said identified user for forwarding to said third user.

15-32. (Canceled.)

33. (Currently Amended) A server comprising:
a machine accessible medium having stored thereon a plurality of instructions, which when executed, cause the computing device to
receive information from a first user identifying a second user as a resource sharing partner, the first and second users being a subset of a plurality of users who each login to the server to exchange digital media resources,
receive information from the second user identifying the first user as a resource sharing partner,
receive one or more digital media resources uploaded by at least one of said first and second users, and
relay the one or more digital media resources to the first user if the one or more digital media resources were uploaded by the second user, and relaying the one or more digital media resources to the second user if the one or more digital media resources were uploaded by the first user, said one or more digital media resources to be displayed in association with at least one of a screen saver and a wallpaper on a corresponding computing device; and
a processor to execute said instructions.

34. (Original) The server of claim 33, wherein said one or more digital media resources comprise one or more digital images.

35. (Original) The server of claim 33, wherein said one or more digital media resources comprise one or more frames of digital video sequence.

36. (Original) The server of claim 33, wherein said machine accessible medium further comprising instructions to

temporarily store said one or more digital media resources in association with said first or second user;

receive a data connection request from at least one of said first and second users;

authenticate the identity of said first or second user based on said data connection request; and

download the one or more digital media resources associated with the authenticated user to a computing device corresponding to the authenticated user.

37. (Original) The server of claim 33, further comprising:

generating at least one meta-data file to describe at least a subset of said one or more digital media resources; and

storing said at least one meta-data file in association with said one or more digital media resources described.

38. (Original) The server of claim 37, wherein said one or more digital media resources are stored on said server in a compressed form.

39. (Original) The server of claim 37, wherein said machine accessible medium further comprises instructions to:

receive a request from one of said first or second users requesting that a copy of a digital media resource be shared with a third user, said digital media resource having been previously uploaded to said server by said requesting one of said first or second users, shared with the other of said first or second users, and thereafter removed from both said server and a computing device associated with said requesting one of said first or second users;

identify at least one of each user to have received a previous copy of said digital media resource; and

request said previous copy of said digital media resource from said identified user for forwarding to said third user.

40-50. (Canceled.)

51. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11 wherein the providing of the copy of the first set of digital images to the users identified as resource sharing partners of the first user further includes, after using the requested data connection for the automatic downloading of the one or more digital images of the first set to the computing device associated with the second user, deleting the temporarily stored one or more digital images of the first set if the second user is a last of the identified resource sharing partners of the first user to receive the one or more digital images of the first set.

52. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11 wherein the users identified as resource sharing partners of the first user include multiple users, and wherein the temporary storing of the one or more digital images of the first set includes deleting the temporarily stored one or more digital images of the first set after a predetermined period of time has expired despite at least one of the multiple users having not received the one or more digital images of the first set.

53. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8 wherein the providing of the copy of the first set of digital images to the users identified as resource sharing partners of the first user further includes temporarily storing the one or more digital images of the first set such that the automatic downloading of the one or more digital images of the first set for at least one of the identified users is performed while the first user is not connected to the server.

54. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8 wherein the automatically downloading of digital images in a transparent manner to a computing device associated with an identified user includes performing the downloading in the background for the computing device while the identified user performs other tasks on the computing device.

55. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8 wherein the automatically downloading of digital images in a transparent manner to a computing device associated with an

identified user includes performing the downloading without explicit approval of the identified user.

56. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8 wherein the users identified as resource sharing partners of the first user include multiple users, and further comprising, after the providing of the copy of the first set of digital images to at least some of the multiple users identified as resource sharing partners of the first user, receiving a rating for one of the digital images of the first set from each of one or more of the at least some users, and providing the received ratings to other of the users identified as resource sharing partners of the first user.

57. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 56 further comprising receiving ratings for the one digital image from multiple of the at least some identified users and generating an average rating for the one digital image based on the received ratings, and wherein the providing of the received ratings to the other users includes providing the generated average rating.

58. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8 further comprising, after the providing of the copy of the first set of digital images to at least some of the users identified as resource sharing partners of the first user, receiving feedback from each of one or more of the at least some users and providing the received feedback to other of the users identified as resource sharing partners of the first user.

59. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8 wherein, for each of at least some of the users identified as resource sharing partners of the first user and each of at least some of the users identified as resource sharing partners of the second user, the images downloaded to the computing device associated with that user are for display by a screen saver on that computing device.

60. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8 wherein, for each of at least some of the users identified as resource sharing partners of the first user and each of at least some of

the users identified as resource sharing partners of the second user, the images downloaded to the computing device associated with that user are for display as a wallpaper on that computing device.

61. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8 wherein, for each of at least some of the users identified as resource sharing partners of the first user and each of at least some of the users identified as resource sharing partners of the second user, the computing device associated with that user is a palmtop computer.

62. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8 wherein, for each of at least some of the users identified as resource sharing partners of the first user and each of at least some of the users identified as resource sharing partners of the second user, the computing device associated with that user is a PDA.

63. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8 wherein, for each of at least some of the users identified as resource sharing partners of the first user and each of at least some of the users identified as resource sharing partners of the second user, the computing device associated with that user is a portable device.

64. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8 wherein, for each of at least some of the users identified as resource sharing partners of the first user and each of at least some of the users identified as resource sharing partners of the second user, the images downloaded to the computing device associated with that user are further for one or more of editing by that user and organizing by that user.

65. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 64 further comprising, for each of the at least some users identified as resource sharing partners of the first user and each of the at least some users identified as resource sharing partners of the second user, and under control of the computing device associated with that user, performing editing and organizing of the images that are downloaded to the computing device in response to instructions from the user.

66. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 64 wherein, for each of the at least some users identified as resource sharing partners of the first user and each of the at least some users identified as resource sharing partners of the second user, editing of the images downloaded to the computing device associated with that user includes augmenting those images in response to instructions from the user.

67. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 64 wherein, for each of the at least some users identified as resource sharing partners of the first user and each of the at least some users identified as resource sharing partners of the second user, organizing of the images downloaded to the computing device associated with that user includes consolidating those downloaded images with other images received from the user who provided those downloaded images.

68. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 64 wherein, for each of the at least some users identified as resource sharing partners of the first user and each of the at least some users identified as resource sharing partners of the second user, organizing of the images downloaded to the computing device associated with that user includes consolidating those downloaded images with other images sent to the user who provided those downloaded images.

69. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8 wherein, for each of at least some of the users identified as resource sharing partners of the first user and each of at least some of the users identified as resource sharing partners of the second user, and under control of the computing device associated with that user, providing messaging capabilities to enable the user to communicate with another user.

70. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 69 further comprising, for each of at least some of the users identified as resource sharing partners of the first user and each of at least some of the users identified as resource sharing partners of the second user, and under control of the computing device associated with that user, communicating with the user who provided an

image downloaded to that computing device while the downloaded image is displayed on that computing device.

71. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 70 wherein, for each of at least some of the users identified as resource sharing partners of the first user and each of at least some of the users identified as resource sharing partners of the second user, the communicating with the user who provided the downloaded image to that computing device is further performed while that image is concurrently displayed to that user on the computing device associated with that user.

72. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 70 wherein, for each of at least some of the users identified as resource sharing partners of the first user and each of at least some of the users identified as resource sharing partners of the second user, the communicating with the user who provided the downloaded image to that computing device includes exchanging text messages.

73. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 70 wherein, for each of at least some of the users identified as resource sharing partners of the first user and each of at least some of the users identified as resource sharing partners of the second user, the communicating with the user who provided the downloaded image to that computing device includes exchanging messages with audio content.

74. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 70 wherein, for each of at least some of the users identified as resource sharing partners of the first user and each of at least some of the users identified as resource sharing partners of the second user, the communicating with the user who provided the downloaded image to that computing device includes exchanging messages with video content.

75. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12 wherein the generating of the at least one meta-data file to describe at least a subset of the one or more received digital media

resources includes generating a distinct meta-data file for each of the one or more received digital media resources.

76. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 75 wherein each generated meta-data file for a received digital media resource includes one or more indications of who uploaded that resource, and further comprising using the generated meta-data files to identify digital media resources uploaded by an indicated user.

77. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 75 wherein each generated meta-data file for a received digital media resource includes one or more indications of who downloaded the resource, and further comprising using the generated meta-data files to identify digital media resources downloaded to an indicated user.

78. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 77 wherein each of the digital media resources is stored in a file in compressed form, wherein each generated meta-data file for a received digital media resource further includes one or more indications of who uploaded the resource and of descriptive information for the digital media resource, and further comprising, without uncompressing the stored digital media resource files, using the generated meta-data files to identify digital media resources as being search results that match indicated search criteria.

79. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14 wherein the tracking of the users to whom a digital media resource is sent includes updating a stored meta-data file associated with the digital media resource to reflect the sending, and wherein the identifying of the at least one user to have received a previous copy of the digital media resource to be shared with the third user is based at least in part on the stored meta-data file for that digital media resource.

80. (New) The method of claim 61 wherein, for each of the at least some users identified as resource sharing partners of the first user and each of the at least some users identified as resource sharing partners of the second user, the images downloaded to the

computing device associated with that user are for display by a screen saver on that computing device.

81. (New) The method of claim 61 wherein, for each of the at least some users identified as resource sharing partners of the first user and each of the at least some users identified as resource sharing partners of the second user, the images downloaded to the computing device associated with that user are for display as a wallpaper on that computing device.

82. (New) The method of claim 62 wherein, for each of the at least some users identified as resource sharing partners of the first user and each of the at least some users identified as resource sharing partners of the second user, the images downloaded to the computing device associated with that user are for display by a screen saver on that computing device.

83. (New) The method of claim 62 wherein, for each of the at least some users identified as resource sharing partners of the first user and each of the at least some users identified as resource sharing partners of the second user, the images downloaded to the computing device associated with that user are for display as a wallpaper on that computing device.

84. (New) The method of claim 63 wherein, for each of the at least some users identified as resource sharing partners of the first user and each of the at least some users identified as resource sharing partners of the second user, the images downloaded to the computing device associated with that user are for display by a screen saver on that computing device.

85. (New) The method of claim 63 wherein, for each of the at least some users identified as resource sharing partners of the first user and each of the at least some users identified as resource sharing partners of the second user, the images downloaded to the

computing device associated with that user are for display as a wallpaper on that computing device.